Sethusamudram Project

178. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey regarding Sethusamudram Project has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Techno-economic Viability and detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project (SSCP) was awarded to M/s. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur in May, 2002. NEERI completed the EIA and Tecno-Economic Viability Study in May 2004 and July 2004 respectively. As a part of the study, NEERI has conducted survey at Adam's Bridge over an area measuring 20 km by 4 km. In addition to this, the National Hydrographic Office (NHO), Dehradun has conducted Bathymetry Survey and Sub-bottom Profiler along the Canal alignment from Adam's Bridge for 500 m width. The preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been assigned to M/s. L&T Ramboll Consulting Engineers, Chennai. To assess accurate quantity of dredging, detailed Bathymetry Survey has been entrusted to National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to conduct survey at close interval of 150 m for a width of 1 km along the alignment.

(c) Implementation of the project will be taken up only after obtaining necessary clearances and is likely to be completed within three years thereafter.

Closed SSIs in Rajasthan and Punjab

179. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SSIs registered in Rajasthan and Punjab that have been closed for the last three years; and

(b) what are the reasons for their closure?